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## A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A FILARIA IN THE CROW.

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The discovery of a number of species of filariæ in birds in southern Nigeria in 1900, when studying the hæmamœbæ, as a member of the Liverpool Malaria Expedition to Nigeria, suggested the question whether these parasites were to be found in birds in temperate climates.

Few opportunities offered in the course of my duties, but a few bluejays and crows were secured during the summer of 1901. The bluejays were examined with negative results. Of eleven crows three were found to have embryo filariæ in the blood, all of one species. In two of the three the red corpuscles were infected with *Halteridium*.

The search for the parent forms of the filariæ was not successful, and owing to the migration of the crows, further study had to be deferred until the following summer.

This year I have been able to secure only four crows. One of these fortunately was infected with the same filaria found in 1901. After careful dissection and teasing of the tissues the parent forms were found in the coats of the pulmonary artery. In appearance they resemble the human form *F. Bancrofti*.

The embryos vary greatly in quantity in the blood stream of the different birds. In the fresh preparation their movements are rapid, and they progress readily in either direction. By ringing with vaseline they will keep active for several days. The average length of a number measured in the fresh preparation was 187.96 microns. In permanent cover-glass smears, dried, fixed in alcohol, and then stained, the length varies somewhat, averaging 173.1 microns.

What appears to be the head end is blunt or abruptly rounded, the anterior two thirds being of uniform diameter. The posterior

third tapers gradually until it reaches about one half the width of the anterior end, when it is abruptly rounded. In the fresh condition no sheath could be made out nor does it show in preparations stained with fuchsin, but with hæmatein a sheath is well defined extending however only slightly beyond either the head or tail.

In stained preparations .05 of the anterior end is clear; at .37 from anterior end and extending to .4 there is in most specimens a paler spot in which there are few nuclei; at .6 from the head end, and extending to .7 there is a clear spot in all the specimens in which no nuclei are seen, and little or no stain is taken. This spot and its fixed position is characteristic of this embryo, and clearly distinguishes it from any filaria which has been previously described. At this spot in the stained specimen the diameter is 5.8 microns, as compared with 4.7 microns at the blunt end, and 3.4 microns at the tapered end.

I hope very shortly to give a detailed description of this new filaria, and the embryos found in the circulating blood.

GRAVENHURST, ONT.,

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